

# Waterfowl Regulatory Process and 2017 Waterfowl Update



South Dakota

GAME, FISH and PARKS

# Flyway Management



- Waterfowl are managed cooperatively within flyway boundaries
- SD is part of the Central Flyway
- Flyways are the avenue for states to engage the USFWS on migratory bird issues.



# Hunting Season Selection



- **Flyway councils meet in September to discuss options for hunting seasons and make recommendations to USFWS.**
- Service Regulations Committee (SRC) weighs recommendations and renders decisions.
- USFWS publishes proposed frameworks in December. Final frameworks in February.
- States select seasons by April based on framework guidelines following their state process.
- SD can't select a season until GFP commission action.
- Frameworks based on predicted Breeding populations and pond numbers.





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Adaptive Harvest Management

*2017 Hunting Season*



# 2017 Duck Federal Framework



- Serve as the bounds of our migratory bird regulations.
- Includes shooting hours, zones/splits, daily bag, framework dates.
- We are limited to three duck season packages: 74 days (liberal), 60 days (moderate), 39 days (restrictive). Packages are based on mid continent mallard population and ponds.
- Can always be more restrictive but not more liberal.
- Separate Frameworks for ducks, geese, doves, etc.

Table 2 – Regulatory alternatives for the 2016 duck-hunting season.

	Flyway			
Regulation	Atlantic <sup>a</sup>	Mississippi	Central <sup>b</sup>	Pacific <sup>c</sup>
Shooting Hours	one-half hour before sunrise to sunset			
	Framework Dates			
Restrictive	Oct 1–Jan 20	Saturday nearest Oct 1 to the Sunday nearest Jan 20		
Moderate	Saturday nearest September 24 to the last Sunday in January			
Liberal				
	Season Length (days)			
Restrictive	30	30	39	60
Moderate	45	45	60	86
Liberal	60	60	74	107
	Bag Limit (total / mallard / hen mallard)			
Restrictive	3 / 3 / 1	3 / 2 / 1	3 / 3 / 1	4 / 3 / 1
Moderate	6 / 4 / 2	6 / 4 / 1	6 / 5 / 1	7 / 5 / 2
Liberal	6 / 4 / 2	6 / 4 / 2	6 / 5 / 2	7 / 7 / 2

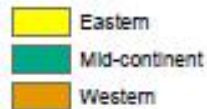
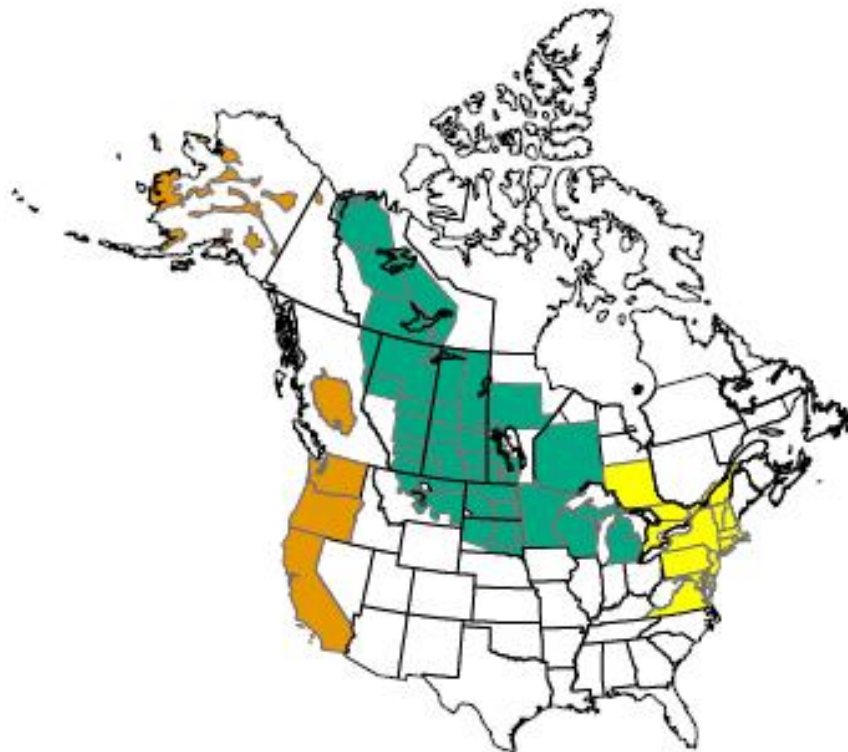
<sup>a</sup> The states of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina are permitted to exclude Sundays, which are closed to hunting, from their total allotment of season days.

<sup>b</sup> The High Plains Mallard Management Unit is allowed 12, 23, and 23 extra days in the restrictive, moderate, and liberal alternatives, respectively.

<sup>c</sup> The Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit is allowed seven extra days in the restrictive and moderate alternatives.



# Mid Continent Mallard Stock



# 2017 Adaptive Harvest Management Decision Matrix



BPOP <sup>b</sup>	Ponds <sup>c</sup>																		
	1.5	1.75	2	2.25	2.5	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4	4.25	4.5	4.75	5	5.25	5.5	5.75	6
≤4.5	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
4.75	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
5.25	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
5.5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
5.75	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
6	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
6.25	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
6.5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	L	L
6.75	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L
7	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
7.25	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
7.5	R	R	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
7.75	R	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
8	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
8.25	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
≥ 8.5	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

<sup>a</sup> C = closed season, R = restrictive, M = moderate, L = liberal.

<sup>b</sup> Mallard breeding population size (in millions) observed in the WBPHS (strata 13–18, 20–50, 75–77) and Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

<sup>c</sup> Ponds (in millions) observed in Prairie Canada in May.



# 2017 Duck Limits

- **Ducks:** 6 and comprised of no more than: 5 Mallards, which may include no more than 2 hens
- 3 Scaup
- 3 Wood Ducks
- 2 Redheads
- 1 Pintail
- 2 Canvasbacks
- 2 Bonus blue-winged teal (first 16 days of season only)
- **Can be more restrictive but not more liberal with migratory bird limits.**



# Duck Zones/Splits



- Designed to increase opportunity by allowing for differential starting dates in different areas of the state.
- Duck Zones/Splits are part of the federal framework under USFWS regulations

# Duck Zone/Split Options



4 Zones	No Splits
3 Zones	2 Segments (1 split)
2 Zones	2 Segments (1 Split)
Statewide	3 Segment (2 splits)



# Duck Zones/Splits

- Zones become more important if we experience shorter seasons.
- Currently have same season dates for Low Plains North and Middle, but can have separate starting dates.
- 23 additional days (97 total) are allowed no earlier than the Saturday closest to Dec 10 in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit. The High Plains Mallard Management Unit Boundaries are not open to change with the Low Plains Zones during the open period.

# Current Season Dates and Zone Boundaries



## HIGH PLAINS:

- Oct. 14 - Jan. 18
- The area west of Boundary A (see Boundary Definitions)

## LOW PLAINS - NORTH ZONE:

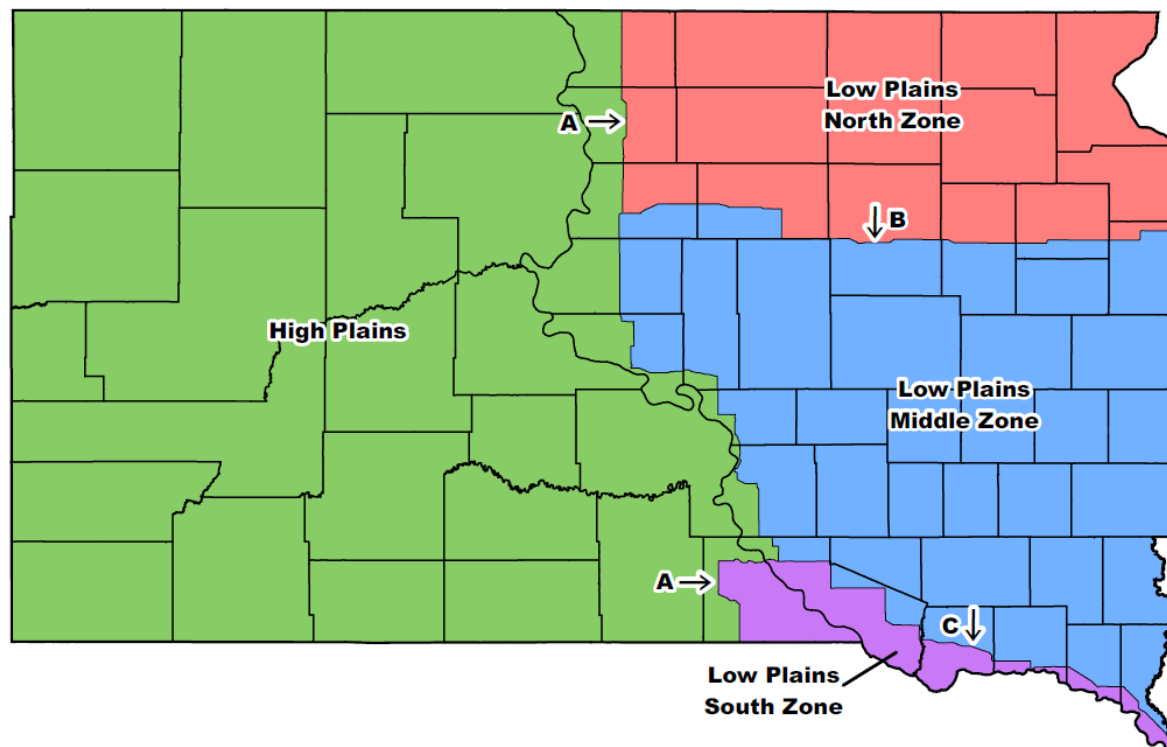
- Sept. 30 - Dec. 12
- The area east of Boundary A and north of Boundary B

## LOW PLAINS - MIDDLE ZONE:

- Sept. 30 - Dec. 12
- The area east of Boundary A, south of Boundary B and north of Boundary C

## LOW PLAINS - SOUTH ZONE:

- Oct. 14 - Dec. 26
- The area within Boundary C



# Duck Zone/Split Open Period



- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows states to make adjustments to zones every 5 years.
- The next open period will be 2020.
- SDGFP will work with department staff to develop potential recommendations on waterfowl zone changes.
- SDGFP will solicit input from the public regarding potential need for zone changes.

# Mallard AHM Revision



- Re-evaluation of Adaptive Harvest Management duck packages
- Potential for an additional week (81 days)
- Potential for framework extension earlier in Sept.
- Trying to get mallard limit same as duck limit (6).
- Working on stabilizing “other duck” limits.
- Any changes will likely be for the 2019-2020 season.





# Banding Update 2017

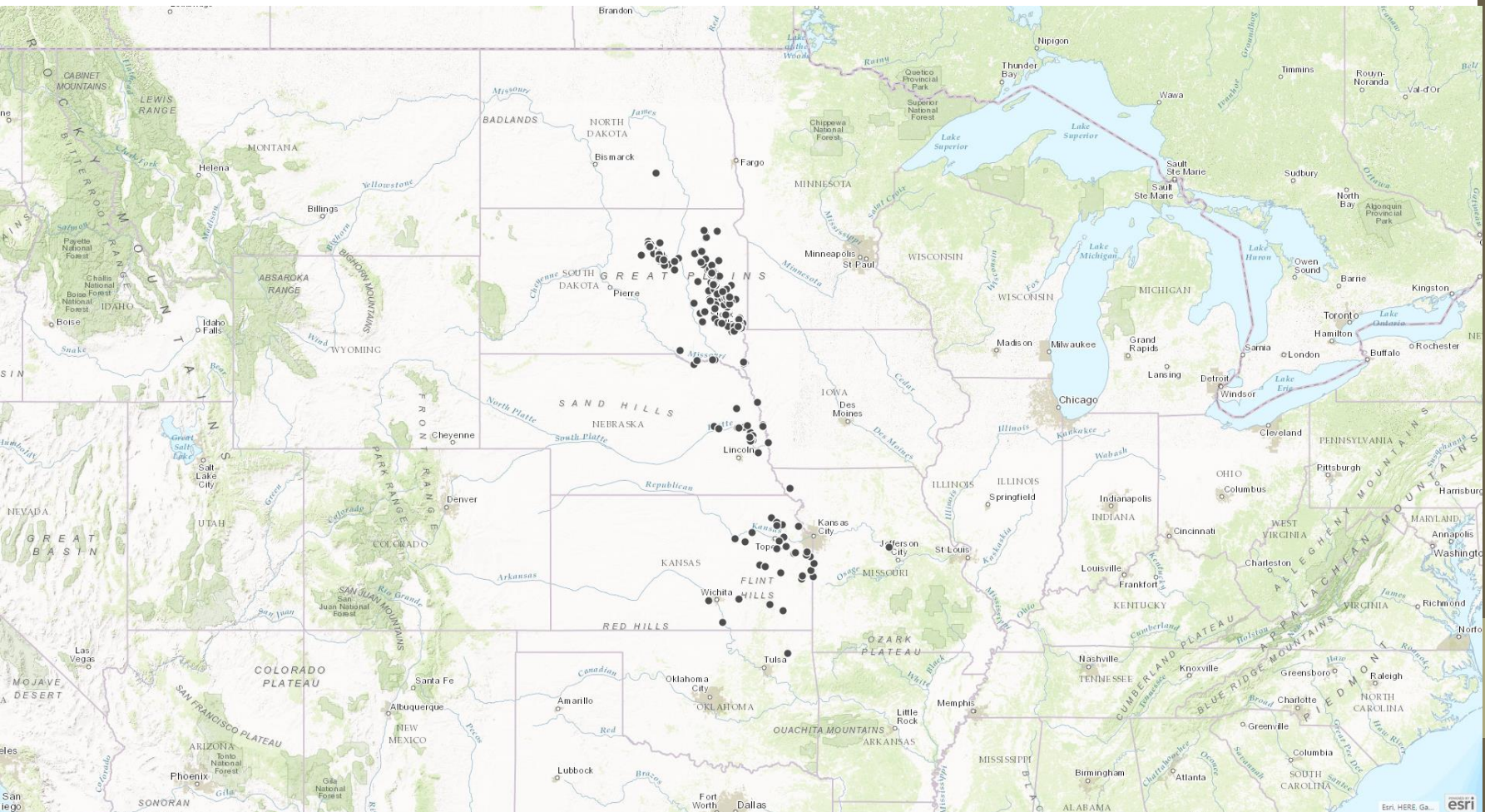
- Mourning Doves
- Approx 1,300 Banded
- Ducks as of last week we have banded over 1700 ducks, mainly mallards, pintail, and wood duck.
- Canada Geese
- Goal is 1,500 per year operationally goose banding
- Banded 1,529 (750 R4, 779 R3)

# Canada Goose Band Recoveries



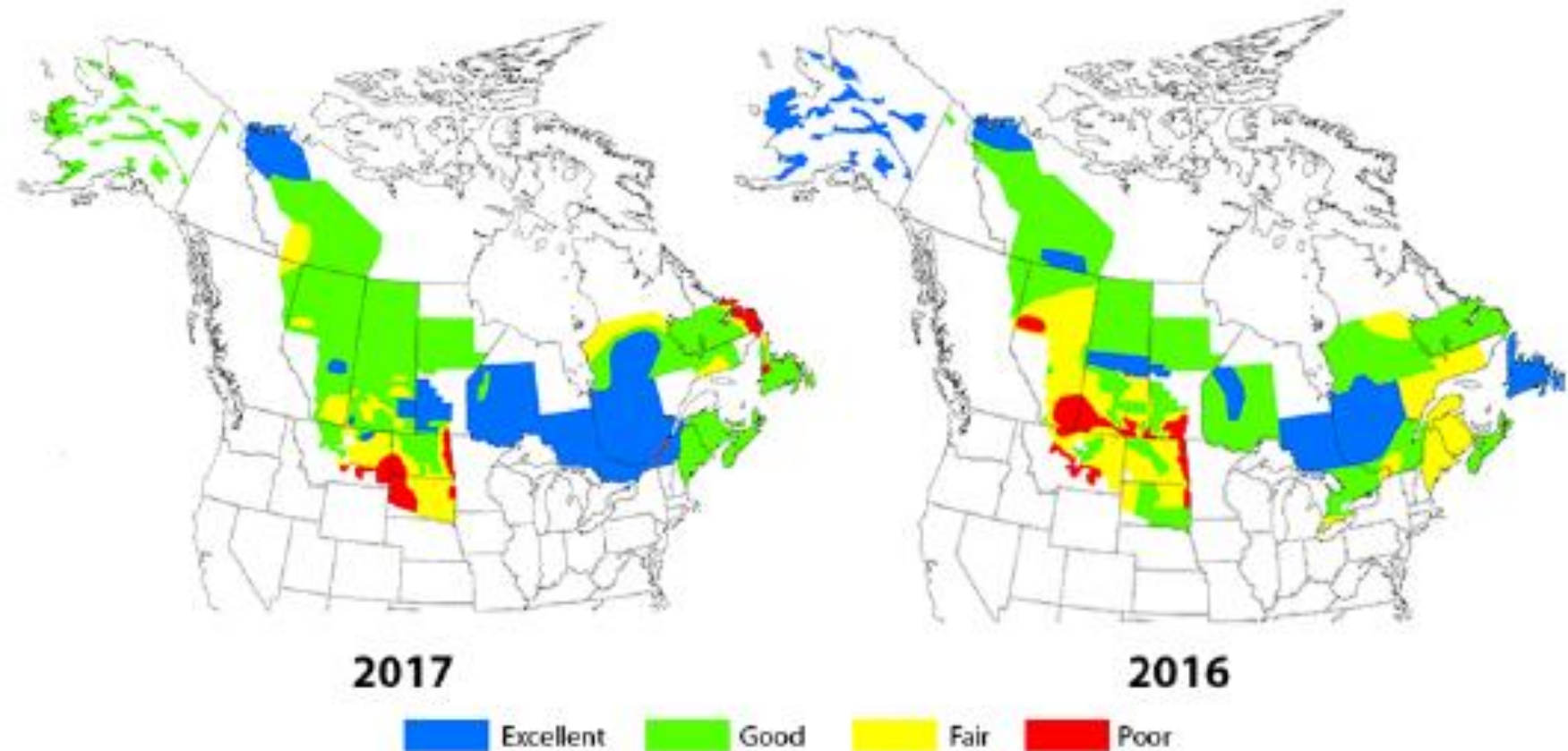
Year	# Banded	# Direct Recoveries	Recovery Rate	Harvest Rate (Recovery Rate/.84)
2012	1,824	307	17%	20%
2013	1,872	313	17%	20%
2014	2,503	404	16%	19%
2015	2,179	259	12%	14%
2016	1,938	311	16%	19%
Combined	10,316 (total)	1,589 (total)	15.6% (mean)	18.4% (mean)

# 2016 Canada Goose Direct Band Recoveries

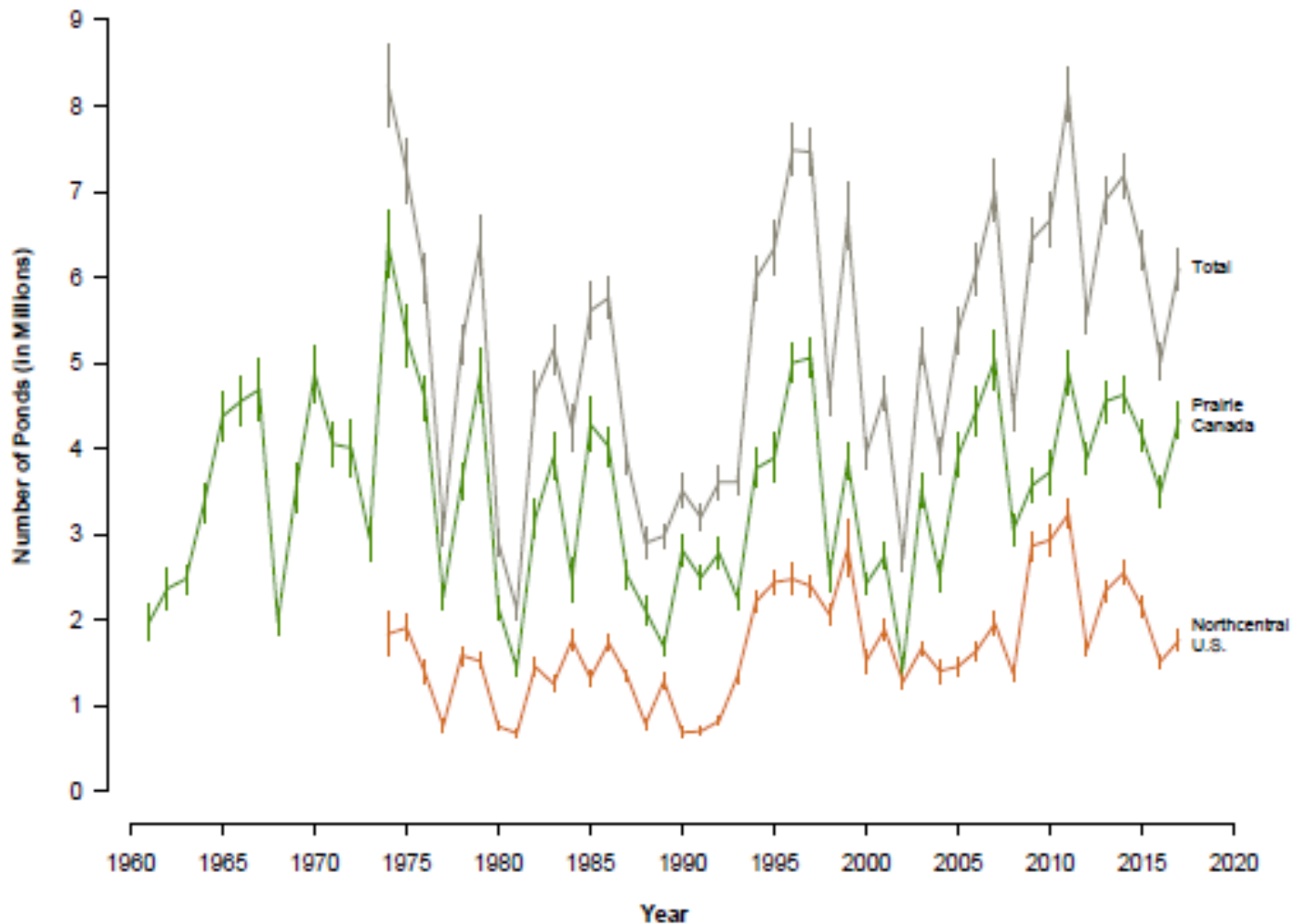




# 2017 Breeding Habitat Conditions



# Total May Ponds 6.0 Million, Up 22% from 2016 and 17% above LTA





# 2017 WATERFOWL SURVEY

[ducks.org/ducknumbers](http://ducks.org/ducknumbers)



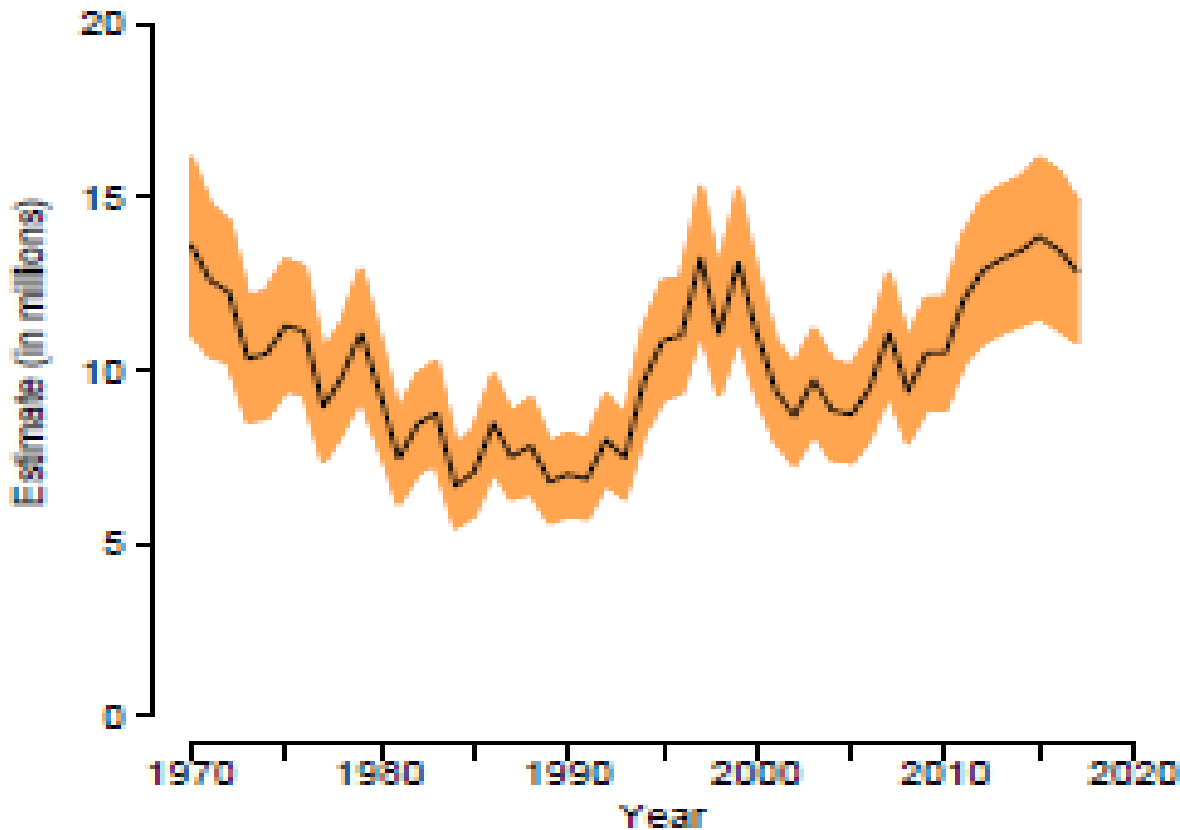
Species	2017	2016	% change from 2016	% change from LTA
 Mallard	10.488	11.793	-11	+34
 Gadwall	4.180	3.712	+13	+111
 American Wigeon	2.777	3.411	-19	+6
 Green-winged teal	3.605	4.275	-16	+70
 Blue-winged teal	7.889	6.689	+18	+57
 Northern shoveler	4.353	3.967	+10	+69
 Northern pintail	2.889	2.618	+10	-27
 Redhead	1.115	1.289	-13	+55
 Canvasback	0.733	0.736	-1	+25
 Scaup	4.372	4.992	-12	-13
<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>47.266</b>	<b>48.363</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>+34</b>
<b>May Ponds (US/Can)</b>	<b>6.096</b>	<b>5.012</b>	<b>+22</b>	<b>+17</b>

Numbers in millions. LTA (Long-term Average)



# 2017 Mallard Fall Flight Estimate

## 12.9 million mallards +/-1.2 million



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# South Dakota Ducks 2017



- 2,582,364 down 23% to 2016 BPOP of 3,329,047 and 20% below LTA of 3,192,916



# South Dakota Dabblers



	2017	2016	%Change	LTA	
Mallard	720,039	800,276	-11%	543,432	+32%
Pintail	110,931	175,508	-37%	229,442	-52%
BW Teal	1,007,810	1,148,629	-14%	958,280	+5.0%
GW Teal	48,366	74,586	-35%	34,877	+38%
Gadwall	390,833	470,088	-17%	260,054	+50%
Wigeon	35,462	92,144	-62%	39,455	Similar
Shoveler	186,108	331,355	-44%	222,957	-17%

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# South Dakota Divers

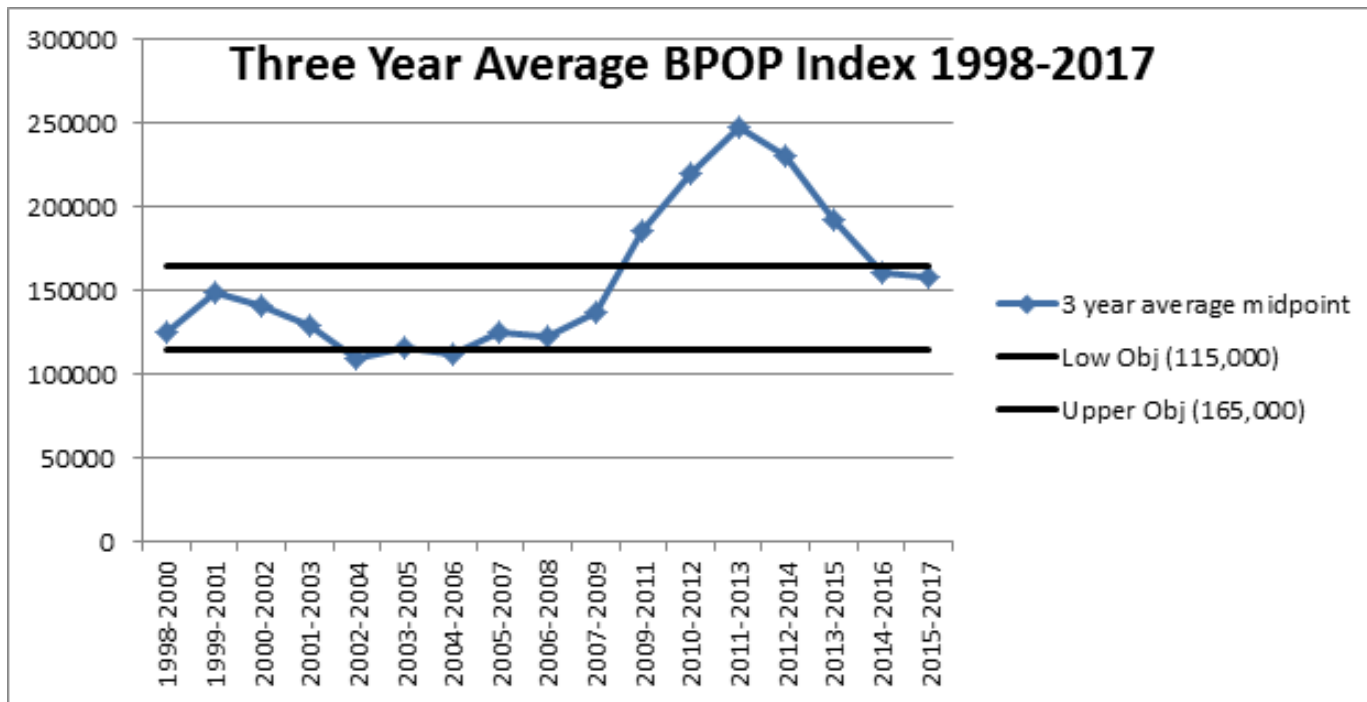
	2017	2016	%Change	LTA	%LTA
Redhead	35,176	37,065	-5%	49,221	-29%
Canvasback	9,666	9,030	Similar	7,279	+33%
Scaup	37,970	69,460	-46%	42,585	-11%



# Canada Geese



- 2017 Breeding Index is 167,230, up 9% from the 2016 estimate of 153,599.
- This puts our 3-year average population within objective range.
- 2016 harvest was 85,809 Canada geese, up 17% from 2015.
- In 2016 we estimated 9,964 active CAGO hunters, down about 3% from 2015.





# 2016 Duck Hunters and Harvest



Comparison of the 2011 - 2016 duck season statistics

<b>Year</b>	<b><i>Resident Hunters</i></b>					<b><i>Nonresident Hunters</i></b>				
	<b><i>Number Hunters</i></b>	<b><i>Harvest</i></b>	<b><i>Ave Day Hunted</i></b>	<b><i>Ave Bag</i></b>	<b><i>Satisfaction</i></b>	<b><i>Number Hunters</i></b>	<b><i>Harvest</i></b>	<b><i>Ave Day Hunted</i></b>	<b><i>Ave Bag</i></b>	<b><i>Satisfaction</i></b>
2011	13,394	213,642	7.34	15.95	5.34	4,132	51,098	4.58	12.37	5.51
2012	12,797	186,398	7.46	14.57	5.19	3,961	47,210	4.75	11.92	5.27
2013	13,456	195,935	7.41	14.56	5.09	3,842	47,873	4.53	12.46	5.31
2014	13,471	179,674	7.12	13.34	4.95	3,565	42,307	4.44	11.87	5.16
2015	11,994	169,183	7.22	14.11	4.87	3,937	44,562	4.54	11.32	4.90
2016	10,533	143,749	7.18	13.65	4.81	3,832	41,356	4.70	10.79	4.75



